

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 08718 271122Z

15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SY-10 DRC-01 /127 W

----- 099763

R 270920Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6283

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8718

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJECT: SECURITY OF DAOUD REGIME

REF: (A) KABUL 8673; (B) KABUL 8717

SUMMARY: DEPFONMIN ABDULLAH DECEMBER 26 CONFIRMED NEW PLOT AGAINST DAOUD REGIME BUT CLAIMED THOSE ARRESTED ARE POLITICAL UNKNOWNNS. HIS DESCRIPTION OF THIS PLOT, TACIT ADMISSION THAT RECENT EXECUTIONS WERE DESIGNED TO INTIMIDATE OTHER WOULD-BE PLOTTERS, AND DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM OF "COMMUNISTS" IN THE GOVERNMENT LEFT IMPRESSION THAT DAOUD REGIME SEES ITSELF AS EMBATTLED. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MY DISCUSSION WITH DEPFONMIN WAHID ABDULLAH DECEMBER 26 ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS, HE CONFIRMED EXISTENCE OF NEW PLOT AGAINST REGIME AND THAT A SERIES OF ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE DURING PAST FEW DAYS (REF A). HOWEVER, ABDULLAH INSISTED THAT ALL THOSE ARRESTED WERE POLITICAL UNKNOWNNS, THOUGH HE FINALLY DID ADMIT THAT ONE GENERAL WAS PERHAPS AMONG THE GROUP. HE DENIED THAT ANY WELL-KNOWN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 08718 271122Z

PRESENT OR FORMER POLITICIANS WERE INVOLVED, WHILE ADMITTING THAT

PERHAPS A FEW MIGHT BE UNDER CAREFUL SURVEILLANCE. HE SAID THERE WAS LITTLE FIRM EVIDENCE ABOUT THIS GROUP AS YET, AND DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE BAFFLEMENT AS TO WHY AFGHANS WOULD BE PLOTTING AGAINST PRESIDENT DAOUD AT THIS JUNCTURE. HE SAID THIS LATEST PLOT WOULD NOT BE PUBLICIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS THE MAIWANDWAL PLOT HAD BEEN.

2. WHEN DCM INQUIRED ABOUT IMPACT OF EXECUTIONS OF PLOTTERS ANNOUNCED DURING LAST FEW DAYS ALONG WITH LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCES, ABDULLAH ACKNOWLEDGED IMPACT OF THESE SENTENCES ON POPULACE. HE TACITLY ADMITTED MOTIVE OF INTIMIDATION IN SENTENCES AS HE SAID "WE CANNOT TOLERATE ANY MORE SUCH STUPID PLOTS. FROM NOW ON, ANYONE CAUGHT PLOTTING WILL RECEIVE THE SAME PENALTY AS THOSE WHO WERE EXECUTED LAST WEEK."

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM DCM, ABDULLAH SAID THAT GENERAL ABDUL WALI'S TRIAL WAS NOT COMPLETED, WHILE THAT OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER SHAFIQ WAS STILL IN PROGRESS. HE SAID THAT SHAH WALI, UNCLE OF BOTH FORMER KING AND PRESIDENT DAOUD, REMAINS IN AFGHANISTAN IN A LOCAL HOSPITAL.

4. DURING THIS DISCUSSION OF PLOTTING, INVESTIGATIONS, AND EXECUTIONS, ABDULLAH MADE POINT DEFIANTLY THAT "IF DAOUD WERE TO BE REMOVED FROM POWER, THERE WOULD BE NO ALTERNATE FORCE TO PREVENT THE 'COMMUNISTS' FROM TAKING OVER THE COUNTRY." PRESIDENT DAOUD WORKS NIGHT AND DAY TO BLOCK THEIR SCHEMES. HE WILL NEVER SELL OUT OUR COUNTRY." FOLLOWING THESE COMMENTS, ABDULLAH MADE FIRST CLEAR ADMISSION FROM HIM OR PRESIDENT DAOUD WHICH WE HAVE HEARD OF EXTENT OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN PRESENT REGIME. HE SAID THAT DURING THE FIRST DAYS AFTER REVOLUTION A NUMBER OF COMMUNISTS MANAGED TO OBTAIN KEY POSITIONS IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES THROUGHOUT THE GOVERNMENT. "WE KNOW WHERE EVERYONE OF THEM IS." ABDULLAH INSISTED THAT DAOUD WAS KEEPING VERY CAREFUL EYE ON THESE INDIVIDUALS, BUT THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY ALSO PROCESS TO RID THE GOVERNMENT OF THEIR PRESENCE.

5. COMMENT: MANNER IN WHICH ABDULLAH DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN GOVERNMENT, DAOUD'S INDISPENSABILITY TO NATION, AND BAFFLEMENT AT LACK OF APPRECIATION OF THAT INDISPENSABILITY AS EVIDENCED BY CONTINUAL PLOTTING, ALL GAVE ME DISTINCT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 08718 271122Z

SENSE

THAT ABDULLAH IS FEELING REGIME SOMEWHAT EMBATTLED. INDEED PARANOIA WOULD NOT BE TOO STRONG A WORD TO DESCRIBE THE ATMOSPHERE. THIS IMPRESSION HEIGHTENED BY HIS REACTION TO REPORTED TERRORIST THREAT TO AFGHAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (SEPTTEL). WHILE PART OF ABDULLAH'S WORDS MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO OBTAIN MORE US SUPPORT FOR DAOUD BY WAVING THE RED FLAG, MY IMPRESSION IS THAT THE WORRIES ARE GENUINE AND CERTAINLY THEY WERE MORE HONESTLY ARTICULATED THAN AT

ANY PREVIOUS CONVERSATION SINCE THE JULY COUP.

ELIOT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ARRESTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KABUL08718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973126/aaaaadsv.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) KABUL 8673; (B) KABUL 8717
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Oct-2001 by shawdg>; WITHDRAWN <29-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by morefirh>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY OF DAOUD REGIME
TAGS: PINT, AF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005